

Libel Blett

ETOKOJI SHIONO



PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT



Ü b e l B l a t t





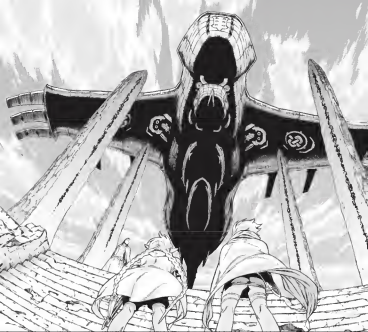




contents

Erosion I	7
Erosion II	31
Erosion III	65
Erosion IV	99
Erosion V	133
Erosion VI	167
Erosion VII	201
Erosion VIII	235
Erosion IX	269
Stars (Collapse) I	289
Stars (Collapse) II	323
Stars (Collapse) III	357
Stars (Collapse) IV	391
Stars (Collapse) V	425
Stars (Collapse) VI	459
The Trained (The Dream)	473

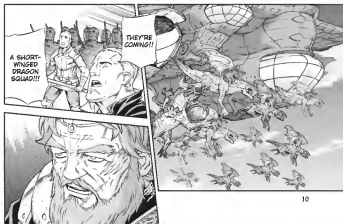




Erosion

◆I◆





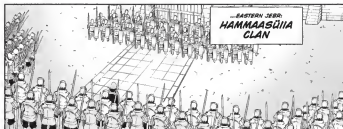


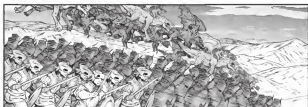


WERE
INSECTS...

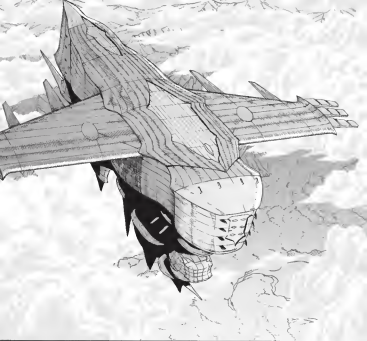
HMPH.

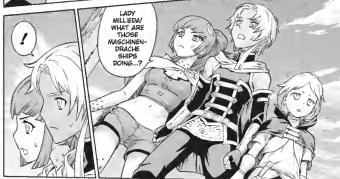














...ANY
DISCOUR-
TESY
TOWARD
THIS
YOUNG
MAN.

...I
WILL
NOT
TOLER-
ATE...



LADY
MILLIEDA
...?



...IN THIS
PLACE...?

WHAT
BUSINESS
HAVE YOU
PEOPLE...



I CAN
TELL...

...HE'S
QUITE A
SKILLED
WARRIOR.



I'VE COME
TO PAY MY
RESPECTS.

...I'VE A
CONNECTION
WITH
SOMEONE
ENSHRINED
HERE.



.....



I
WON-
DER...

COULD WE
SPEAK A
MOMENT?



THESE
ARE...

...THE
GRAVES
OF THE
TRAI-
TOROUS
LANCES.











I AM
IN NO
POSITION...

...TO
SPEAK
OUT
AGAINST
COMMON
KNOW-
LEDGE.



DO YOU
TRULY
BELIEVE...

...THAT
LORD
KFER
BETRAYED
THE
EMPIRE
...?



THAT
SAID.....





IN MY
LIFE...

...I'VE
TAKEN
TWO MEN
AS HUS-
BANDS.
I MAY
HAVE
LOST
BOTH.....



...IT IS A
WIFE'S
DUTY...
...TO
BELIEVE
IN HER
HUS-
BAND.



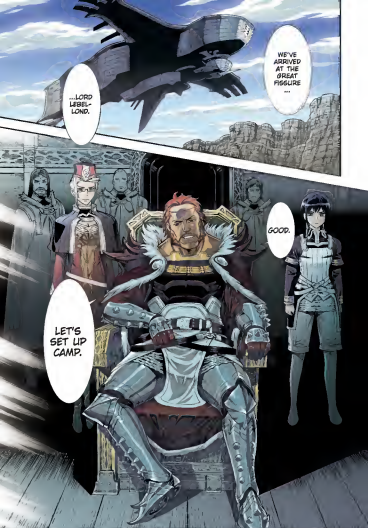
...BUT
I NEVER
MARRIED
ANY MAN
NOT
WHOLLY
DESERVING
OF MY
TRUST.











...LORD
LEBEL-
LOND.

WE'VE
ARRIVED
AT THE
GREAT
FIGURE

GOOD.

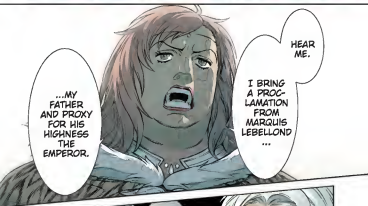
LET'S
SET UP
CAMP.



Erosion
◇ II ◇



ARE YOU THE
LEADER
OF THIS
TRIBE?



...MY
FATHER
AND PROXY
FOR HIS
HIGHNESS
THE
EMPEROR.

HEAR
ME.

I BRING
A PROCLAMATION
FROM
MARQUIS
LEBELLOND
...





YOU
PEOPLE
OWE
MUCH TO
THE LATE
MARQUIS
GLENN.
AND
NOW HIS
KILLER
HAS
FLED TO
JEBR.



SUCH
DISLOYALTY
IS INTOL-
ERABLE!!



HOW-
EVER...

...NONE
OF JEBR'S
POWERS
HAVE YET
MANAGED
TO CAPTURE
THE
REBEL.



**...WE
DEMAND
THE HERO-
KILLING
REBEL BE
CAPTURED
...**

**WITHIN
TEN
DAYS...**

**INFORM
THE
PEOPLE
OF
JEBR!**

**PROVE
YOUR
LOYALTY
TO THE
EMPIRE
!!!**

**...AND
BROUGHT
TO OUR
HEAD-
QUARTERS
AT THE
GREAT
FISSURE.
DEAD
OR
ALIVE.**



**...AND
WE WILL
RESPOND
WITH
FORCE.**

**SHOULD
YOU FAIL TO
PRODUCE
THE REBEL
IN TIME...
...THE
PEOPLE OF
JEBR WILL BE
CONSIDERED
COLLABORA-
TORS FOR
SHELTERING
HIM...**















NOT ONLY
DID HE
SLAUGHTER
EVERY
OPPOSING
TRIBE
DOWN TO
THE LAST
WOMAN
AND
CHILD...

BUT IN
ORDER TO
BREAK
OTHERS'
WILL TO
FIGHT...



HIS
FOURTH
SON,
BARRANT,
THE ONE
WHO CAME
TO US...

...WAS GIVEN
COMMAND
OF HIS OWN
UNIT AT
THE AGE OF
NINE.

...AND
LINED THE
BATTLE-
FIELD WITH
THEM.

...HE STUCK
THE HEADS
OF THOSE
MURDERED
WOMEN AND
CHILDREN ON
SPIKES...

HE TOLD HIM,
"KEEP IT UP,
AND YOU'LL
BE PUTTING
YOUR
BROTHERS
TO SHAME
SOON
ENOUGH"...

THEY SAY
MARQUIS
LEBELLOND
PRAISED HIS
SON WHEN
HE SAW THE
GROTESQUE
DISPLAY.



MY DUTY IS
TO PROTECT
MY CLANS-
MEN...

...ABOVE
ALL
ELSE...



...THEN I
ADMIT WE
DON'T STAND
MUCH OF A
CHANCE...

IF WHAT
YOU SAY
ABOUT THE
REBEL'S
IDENTITY IS
TRUE...



**MOVE
OUT!!**



WE CAN
ONLY HOPE
THEY WILL
SHOW US
LENIENCY IF WE
MAKE EVERY
EFFORT TO
CAPTURE THE
REBEL.

...BUT THE
MARGUIS'S
CHILDREN
ARE UNBE-
LIEVABLY
COLD-
HEARTED







I CAN'T BELIEVE WE TREATED MARQUIS GLENN'S KILLER AS A GUEST...

IF ONLY WE'D KNOWN WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE...



...HE'S PRESENTED US WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE PEACE.

AND EVEN IF THIS "REBEL" HAS TURNED HIS BACK ON THE EMPIRE...

MARQUIS LEBELLOND'S BEHAVIOR IS INEXCUSABLE.



...WE'RE PREPARED TO DO WHAT WE HAVE TO.

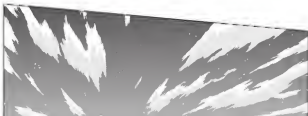
...OR SIMPLY TO SET UP AN AMBUSH FOR HIS RETURN...

...WHETHER YOU WANT US TO PURSUE HIM...



WE UNDERSTAND YOU MUST BE CONFLICTED, LORD RAVAHN.

BUT...





MY SIBLINGS AND I ARE FULLY CAPABLE OF HANDLING THIS REBEL...

FATHER.

EVEN WITHOUT AID FROM THESE JEHR COMMONERS...

LEBELLOND'S SIXTH SON, QUELLD

HMPH.

OF COURSE YOUR FORCES COULD DO THE JOB, I KNOW THAT.



IF THESE JEHR NATIVES PROVE USELESS...

...I'M TRUSTING YOU AND THE OTHERS TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE SEARCH.



BUT THIS REBEL MADE FOOLS OF EVEN THE ORDER OF THE SEVEN LANCES...



NO,
SIR.



ANY
COM-
PLAINTS
OUT OF
YOU?

SCH-
FEIS?



...HE
WOULDN'T
BE
WORTH
MY TIME...

...IF HE
COULDN'T
.....!



FORGIVE
ME,
BUT.....

...NO
MATTER
THE
MEASURES
YOU
TAKE...

...HE'S
GOING TO
FIND HIS
WAY TO
YOU.



.....
HMPH.





RASENTO CLAN
TERRITORY

FIVE DAYS
LATER

GUWAH!!

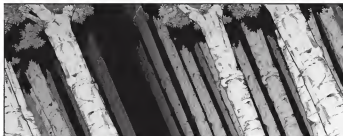


LEBEL-
LOND
...!!

SO
THAT'S
IT...

THAT'S WHY
THERE'VE
BEEN EVEN
MORE
PURSUERS
THESE PAST
FEW DAYS.







THOSE
WOODS...

THEY'VE
ENTERED
THE DEMON
WOODS...



WH...
WHAT
DO WE
DO...!?

...WE MIGHT
NEVER MAKE
IT OUT
ALIVE.....!

IF WE
CHARGE
IN THERE
TOO...



ス"ズ"ズ"ズ"ズ"ズ".....



Erosion

◆III◆











YOU'RE
PATHETIC,
GERAN-
PEN.

I
CAN'T
TAKE
IT!!!



NOOO!!!



"SOME-
THING"?
WHAT
SOME-
THING!!!?

THESE
CORPSES
AREN'T
POSSESSED
BY EVIL
SPIRITS OR
ANYTHING
LIKE THAT.

THEY'RE
BEING
CONTROLLED
BY SOME-
THING.



...!!

WE
MADE IT
PAST.....





YOU
TREAD
ON HOLY
GROUND,
LITTLE
ONES.

RETURN
WHENCE
YOU
CAME...!!

THIS
IS...

...THE
FOREST
KING'S
WILL.



WHAT'S
THAT
...?!



LITTLE
ONES...



...THE
FOREST
KING.

YES.
I AM...



THE
FOREST
KING
.....?



...OR...

...DIE.

CHOOSE
WISELY.

EITHER
LEAVE
THESE
WOODS...



.....!



.....



HMPH

TO BE
UNDAUNTED
BY THE
MIGHT OF
THE FOREST
KING...



...WE
NEED TO
REACH THE
OTHER SIDE
QUICKLY.

PLEASE
LET US
PASS.

PLEASE,
"FOREST
KING."



...YOU
ARE
SOME-
THING
RARE
INDEED.

NOW
THAT I
LOOK AT
YOU...



WH...

WHAT'S
HE
TALKING
ABOUT
...?

.....



...CONCERN
YOURSELF
WITH...

...THE
WORLD OF
THESE
OTHER
LITTLE
ONES? THESE
"HUMANS"
...?

WHY
WOULD
ONE
SUCH AS
YOU.....





BREAD...?

.....

...SWEET BREAD AS AN OFFERING...!



BRING THE FOREST KING...



THIS IS...

...THE FOREST KING'S WILL.



I CRAVE THE SWEET BREAD OF FLUG-PRONGHER...

ONE OF THE FEW ITEMS OF VALUE PRODUCED BY YOU LITTLE ONES...



WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO GO GET YOU BREAD...

PLEASE ASK SOMETHING ELSE OF US.



...WAS A CITY DESTROYED HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO.....

BESIDES, FLUG-PRONGHER...



HE WANTS TO EAT SOME BREAD?

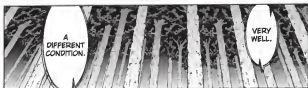
HOW ADORABLE.

...BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY BREAD

W-HOW ABOUT SOME JERKY...?



THIS
GUY...
HOW
OLD IS
HE...?



A
DIFFERENT
CONDITION.

VERY
WELL.



AND
YOUR
FELLOWS
MAY
PASS.

YOU
WILL
REMAIN
HERE.



WE
CAN'T
AGREE
TO
THAT!

WE...



...AND
PERMIT HIM
TO ENJOY
YOUR RARE
BEAUTY.

TELL THE
FOREST
KING OF
YOUR
TRIVIAL
LIFE...



.....



...TAKE
HIS
PLACE!!

LET
ME...



LET
...



.....



...BUT
THIS ONE
OFFENDS
MY EYES. I
REFUSE.

AN
OCTOPUS
THAT WALKS
THE EARTH
IS QUEER
INDEED...

SO...
SO
MEAN
!!!



.....



AMUS-
ING.....



...WE'RE
NOT
GETTING
ANYWHERE
BY
TALKING.

IT
SEEMS
...



...THAT
YOU LITTLE
ONES MEAN
TO FORCE
YOUR WAY
THROUGH
THESE HOLY
GROUNDS
.....!?

IS THE
FOREST
KING TO
UNDER-
STAND...



IT HAS
BEEN
LONG...

...SO
VERY LONG
SINCE SUCH
FASCINATING
TRAVELERS
HAVE PASSED
THROUGH...

BUT IF YOU
WOULD SO
POINTLESSLY
CHALLENGE
THE FOREST
KING...

...YOU
WILL
SOON
JOIN
THOSE
CORPSES
.....!!!













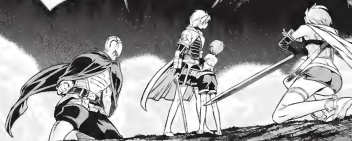
YOU
WILL
DIE.

OH,
LITTLE
ONES...

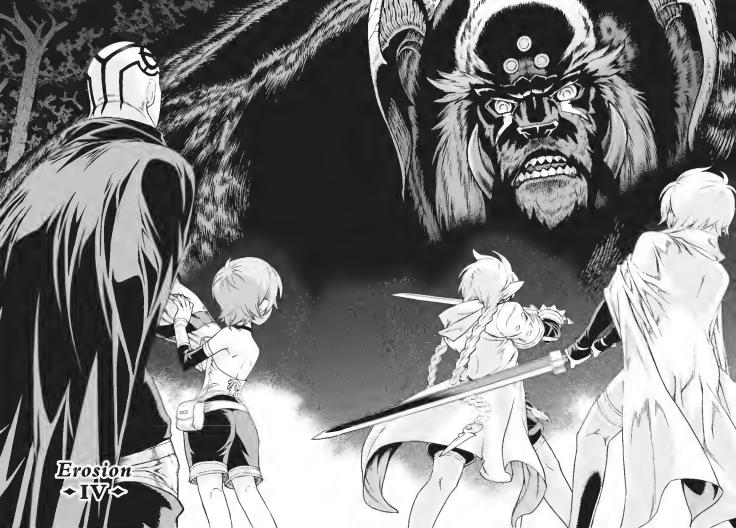


...THE
FOREST
KING'S
WILL....!!!

THIS
IS...







Erosion
◆ IV ◆



YOU WILL
NOURISH
THE
TREES!!



STAY
BACK!!

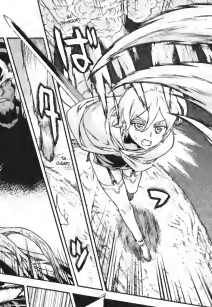
EEP!



UUUU!!

TA
CLEAR





PAGE
CUTLIPS

IMPLU-
DENCE
.....!!



HOW-
EVER
....!

TO COME
SO CLOSE
TO THE
FOREST
KING'S
NOSE IS
IMPRES-
SIVE.....



I
REPELLED
IT...!?







[illegible]

AMUS-ING!!

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
!!!

IMPRES-SIVE, LITTLE ONES! IMPRES-SIVE!!!

TO CHAL-LENGE THE FOREST KING IN THIS WAY!

NO MORE !!!

IMPRES-SIVE, LITTLE ONES! IMPRES-SIVE!!!

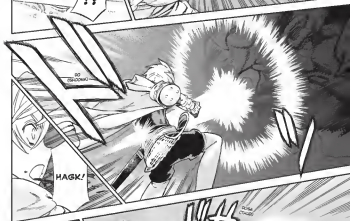
TO CHAL-LENGE THE FOREST KING IN THIS WAY!

NO MORE !!!

IMPRES-SIVE, LITTLE ONES! IMPRES-SIVE!!!

TO CHAL-LENGE THE FOREST KING IN THIS WAY!

NO MORE !!!









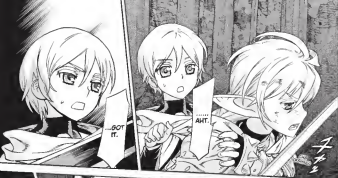
RRRRGH!!!



...YOU
HOLD
FAST
.....!?

?







RRRGH!

LET
GO!!!



OH
NO.....



LOOK
OUT!!!

!!

NUOHH
.....!!?

GORA
GOROGORO

SO
BRIGHT
....!!



**HOW
DARE
YOU!!!?**



**LITTLE
ONES...**





!!

WHERE
IS THE
OTHER
!?



.....

ONLY
ONE
...!!?





FOR-GIVE
ME.







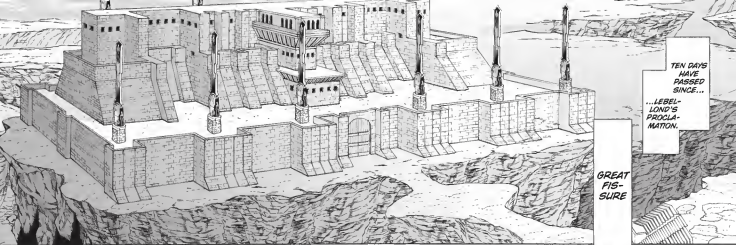
Erosion

◇V◇

YOU DID IT!







TEN DAYS
HAVE
PASSED
SINCE...
...LEBEL-
LOND'S
PROCLA-
MATION.

GREAT
FIS-
SURE



WHY AREN'T
OUR ENVOYS
BACK FROM
MARQUIS
LEBELLOND...!?



MARQUIS
LEBELLOND
HAS TO
UNDER-
STAND...!



EVERY
LEADER IN
JEBB IS
IMPLOING
HIM TO SHOW
MERCY...



...OUT
OF
TIME...

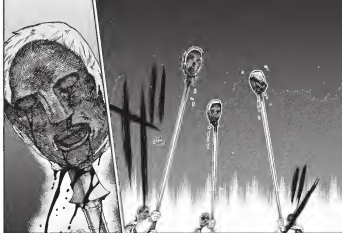
WE'RE
...



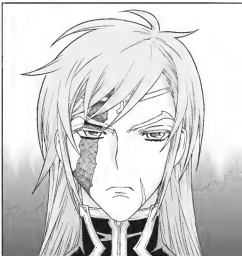
OF
COURSE
NOT...!



...NONE
AMONG
US WAS
ABLE TO
CAPTURE
THE REBEL
.....!











.....



...YOU
MIGHT
AS WELL
HAVE A
BODY-
GUARD.

IF YOU'RE
MARCHING
OFF TO BE
KILLED...



...WILL BE
SATISFIED
WITH JUST
ONE OR TWO
HEADS...

BUT LET'S
SEE IF
MARGUIS
LEBEL-
LOND...



...I'D
HOPED
I'D BE
THE ONE
TO KILL
YOU...

OF
COURSE
...

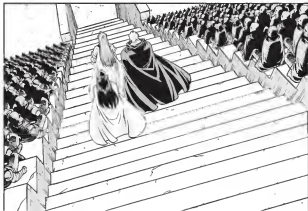


!



I'M
COMING
TOO

BUT
I'M NOT
WALKING
TO MY
DEATH!









IT'S HIM!!

!!





WHAT A GARISH THING TO BUILD...



...YET
STILL YOU
MOCK HIM.

THE FOREST
KING HAS
ACKNOWLEDGED
YOUR BATTLE
PROWESS AND
CARRIED YOU
SO FAR...



SORRY
I'M
LATE.



IT TOOK
THIS BIG
GUY A
WHILE TO
RECOVER.



THANK
YOU, MR.
FOREST
KING!



FOREST
KING.....?!



HEAR
THE
WORDS
OF
MAR-
QUIS
LEBEL-
LONDI!!



LISTEN
WELL,
REBEL!!





WEREN'T
YOU...

...ABOUT
TO GO
YOUR-
SELF?



THEY'RE
GOING
TO...!

NOT
EVEN
YOU
CAN...!



IF I
SOMEHOW
SURVIVE
THIS.....

IF...

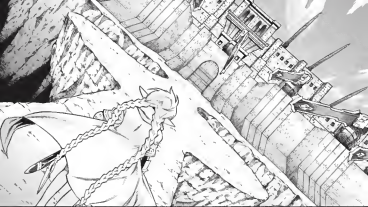
.....YES,
YOU'RE
RIGHT.



...I
HOPE...

...WE
CAN FIGHT
TOGETHER
AGAIN. TO
PROTECT
THE
PEOPLE.





Erosion

◆VI◆





MAR-
QUIS
LEBEL-
LOND!!!





WHAT
...



MARQUIS
LEBEL-
LOND...!?

WHAT
IS THE
MEANING
OF
THIS...?



YOU
TRICKED
US,
MARQUIS
LEBEL-
LOND!!

WH-WHY
ARE YOU
PEOPLE
HERE!?

YOU MAY
BE ONE
OF THE
HEROES,
BUT...

...TO DO
THIS...

WHILE
WE'VE
BEEN IN
KROH-
ZEN...
...YOU
TOOK
THE
OPPOR-
TUNITY
TO
INVADE
JEBB!

THE
MARQUIS
WAS KIND
ENOUGH TO
ALLOW YOU
TO SEARCH
NORTHERN
KROHZEN—
BUT ONLY
THERE.



TCH...



YOU
SHOULD
BE
GRATE-
FUL.

HMPH ...



WHEN
YOU
QUESTION
ME...

...YOU'RE
QUES-
TION-
ING THE
PROXY
OF THE
EMPEROR
THAT?
...



LOOK.

WHEREAS
YOU LOT
FAILED...

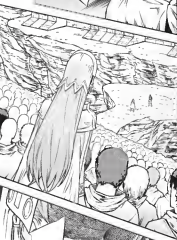
...I WAS
ABLE TO
BRING THE
REBEL
OUT OF
HIDING.

!











WHY ARE
YOU WITH
LEBELLOND
NOW?

WHAT
ABOUT
ROZEN?



...THE
QUICKEST
WAY TO A
REMATCH
WITH YOU.

I
THOUGHT
THIS
WOULD
BE.....



**IT'S
HIM
...!!!**



...I
WONDER
...



CLEARLY
...



MY
SWORD
...





HEIR
TO THE
JEBNA-
RESS
LINE!

THIS
MAN...
...IS HEIR
TO YOUR
FORMER
RULERS...



ICH-
FEIS.

THIS IS
TRAI-
TOROUS
LANCE
KFER'S
SON.





KFER'S

...

...
SÖN
...!!?





...MARQUIS
LEBEL-
LOND, IN
HIS MAGNA-
NIMITY...

...HAS
GIVEN
ICHFEIS THE
CHANCE TO
KILL THE
REBEL AND
RESTORE
HIS SULLIED
NAME!!

HE
MAY BE
A MERE
SLAVE
KNIGHT,
BUT...



OH!!
.....!!

OH
...

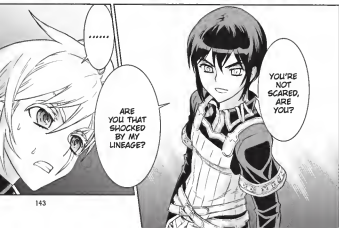


THIS
IS.....

THIS IS
ALL SO
WRONG
....!!

!?

NO
!!!















SO
LET'S AT
LEAST...
...TRY TO
ENJOY
OUR-
SELVES...!

THERE'S
...
...NO-
WHERE
LEFT FOR
YOU TO
RUN.





Erosion
◆VII◆







OR
RATHER

IS THIS
SOME
SORT OF
STRATEGY
...?



WHAT
IS
THIS
...?



KÖIN-
ZELL!!





HE
STRUGGLED
WITH LORD
KFER TO
COMPLETE
THE
MISSION...!

THESE
TWO
SHOULDN'T
BE
FIGHTING
...!!

KON-
ZELL...

NO...
ASCHERIT...



THIS...IS A
PURE FORM OF
LUDIFT-STYLE
SWORDSMAN-
SHIP.....

TAKE A
LOOK.

I'VE
CLEANED
UP MY
TECH-
NIQUE!!



AND
ALONG
WITH
IT...

LIP
UNTIL
NOW...

...THAT
HATEFUL
BLOOD
THAT
FLOWS
THROUGH
ME.....!!

...I WAS
STUCK
CLINGING
TO JEBB'S
OWN BACK-
WATER
SWORD
STYLE...



BUT
NOW,
I'VE
FINALLY

...

...MANAGED
TO STRIP
MYSELF
OF ALL
THAT.....

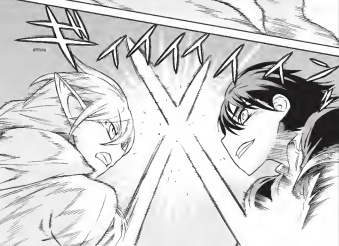


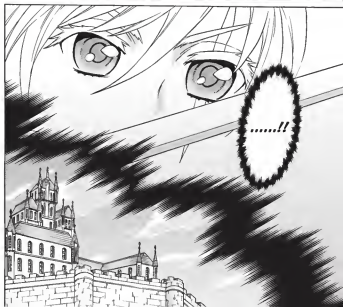




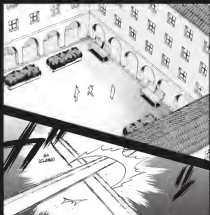


SEN
GURANDU





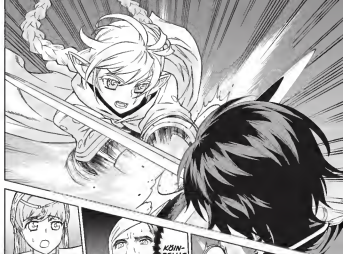












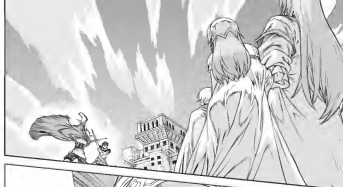


**THAT'S
WHAT I
WANT!!!**





Erosion
◆ VIII ◆



**PLEASE
STOP
THIS....!!**

**...I
BEG
YOU...**



**SO
TAKE A
GOOD
LOOK.**

**YOU
KNOW A
BIT ABOUT
SWORDPLAY
YOURSELF.**

BROTHER...

**DON'T
LOOK
AWAY.**

KVERIA.

**BUT
.....!!**





THEY'RE
NOT
WRONG...



AND
EVEN IF I
DO DEFEAT
ICHFEIS
HERE.....

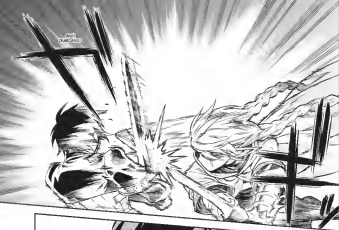
...I GAIN
NOTHING
FOR IT...

I KNEW
FROM THE
START...

...I
WOULDN'T BE
GETTING TO
REBELLION
THIS WAY...



HOW-
EVER...



YOU'RE EVEN
TOUGHER
THAN LAST
TIME!!

NICE!!



I'M
FLAT-
TERED.



I'VE BEEN
PREPARING
FOR THIS.

FOR
THE NEXT
TIME WE
MET.....

...I
HAVE
A NEW
SWORD
NOW!!

HOW-
EVER
...

THIS
IS BLATT
MEISTER
ASCHERIT'S
SWORD...!!

DID
YOU
NO-
TICE?

I KNOW
IT WELL.

...YES.

THE
MORE I
SWING
IT...

...THE
MORE THE
BLADE
AWAKENS!!





**I
HAVE
TO
...!!**



**THIS
FIGHT**

**I HAVE
TO STOP
THIS
FIGHT.....**



.....
ROZEN
...?!

**I
HAVE
TO...!**



**AND
HE'S...**

**HE'S
FROM
OUR OWN
SCHOOL,
NO LESS...**

.....
**AS
SOMEONE
WHO'S
CHOSEN
THE PATH
OF THE
SWORD...**

**...HOW
CAN YOU
REMAIN
UNMOVED
BY SUCH AN
INCREDIBLE
DISPLAY...?**









I'M
NOT...

...THINKING
SO MUCH
ABOUT
SURVIV-
ING...

...OR
EVEN
REVENGE



...
THIS IS
STUPID,
REALLY
...

I'LL BE
WHOLLY
DRAINED
AFTER
USING
BLACK
WING...

GETTING
AWAY FROM
HERE WILL
BE EVEN
HARDER...
I KNOW
THAT, BUT
STILL...

...THE
FIGHT HE
DESERVES

I'M ONLY
HOPING TO
GIVE THIS
FANTASTIC
SWORDSMAN







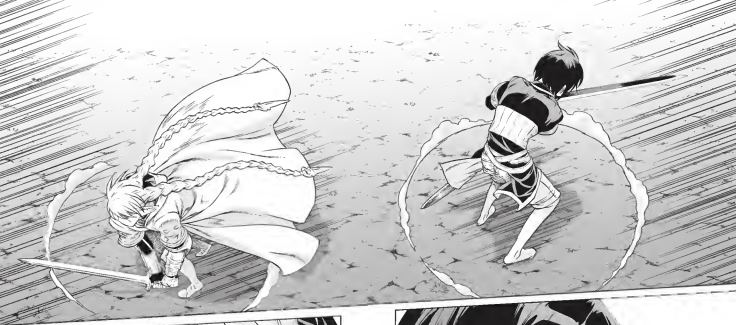




**I CAN
SEE
IT...!!!**











...ICH-
FEIS.

I'VE NEVER
SEEN THAT
BEFORE...



WHAT
WAS THAT
MOVE AT
THE VERY
END...!?

IT
WAS
.....

.....

WHAT.....
WAS
THAT.....?



...SO
YOU SAW
THAT...

WELL
DONE.



I...

I
KNOW
THAT
MOVE
.....!!



.....
THAT
TECH-
NIQUE...

WH
—
WHAT
WAS
THAT
.....?!

THE SECRET
TECHNIQUE
THOUGHT TO
HAVE DIED
WITH BLATT
MEISTER
ASCHERIT...

**BLACK
WING...!!**

Erosion
◇IX◇







... HE ...

SO WHY SHOULD WE...

...HESITATE TO CALL OUT HIS NAME!?

LORD KFER'S FORGOTTEN LEGACY...

...HAS GROWN INTO A FINE SWORDSMAN, AND NOW HE STANDS BEFORE US...

...HE'S RIGHT ...!



...WOULD NEVER TURN TRAITOR ...!!

SUCH A PURE AND NOBLE BLOOD-LINE...

THAT LORD KFER WOULD BETRAY US ALL SO SHAME-LESSLY...?

WE NEVER REALLY BELIEVED IT, DID WE...?



...SHINE ACROSS ALL OF JEBR...!!!

MAY THE LIGHT OF THE JEBNA-RESS'S REVIVAL...





WHY
USE
THAT
MOVE...

...IN YOUR
BLACK
WING...?!

RAAAAH!
oooooooooooo



...I
DON'T
GET
IT...

WHY...?



...OF THE
LUDIFT
STYLE'S
EIGHT
BASIC
FORMS...

BLACK
WING
IS THE
CULMINA-
TION...



BUT...

...
ASCHERIT'S
BLACK WING
IS A BIT
DIFFERENT
.....

CORRECT.
MASTER
LUDIFT'S
BLACK WING
IS JUST
THAT.



YOU SAW
MY BLACK
WING JUST
NOW...

...SO YOU
SHOULD
ALREADY
UNDER-
STAND.



!?

WHAT...

WHAT'RE
YOU
SAYING
.....?!



TRYING
TO PURGE
YOURSELF
OF THAT...

...WAS
ACTUALLY
DULLING
YOUR
BLADE.



YOU...

YOU
SEEMED TO
THINK THAT
THE JEBR
STYLE...

...THAT YOUR
FAMILY'S
TECHNIQUES
WERE
HOLDING YOU
BACK...



...LET ME
TELL YOU
SOME-
THING.



YOU'RE
WRONG...



THAT
IS TO
SAY...

HE
INTEGRATED
ITS MOVES
INTO *HIS*
OWN...

...BUT
ASCHERIT
ACTUALLY
LEARNED
JEBR STYLE
FROM HIS
COMPANION,
KFER.

NOT
MANY ARE
AWARE OF
THIS...



YES.

SO YOU
SEE...



MY FATHER
KFER'S
STYLE WAS
USED IN...

...BLACK
WING...!?

JEBR'S
...



...FOR YOU TO
REJECT THAT
PART OF
YOURSELF.

...THERE'S
NO
REASON...



*I
CAN.....*

*I
CAN.....!*













KÖIN-
ZELL
!!!



DOMA
THOU



.....
THAT
WAS...

...
BLACK
WING
....!!!



**RAAAA-
AAAAA-
AAAH!!!**



OH...



**HE
USED
BLACK
WING
.....!!**

**LORD
ICHFEIS,
HE...**



**IN-
CREDI-
BLE...**





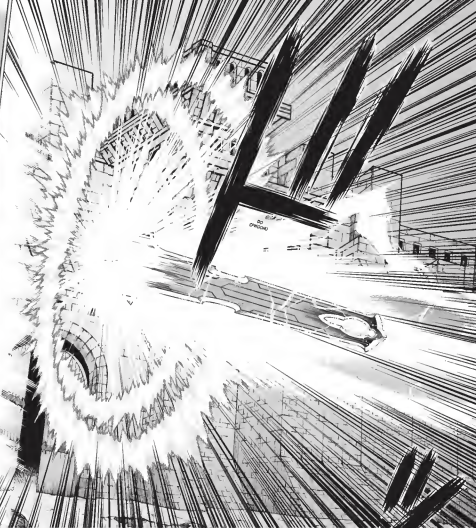
...A LOT
TO LEARN
FROM
YOU...



...
WHY?

オオオオオオオオオオオオオオオオ
RAAAAH!











HA
HA
HA...

HA HA HA

KATA
KATA

HA HA HA

KATA
KATA
(GROAN)

HA
HA
HA



I
DID
IT.

HA
HA
...

HA
HA
...

HA
HA
...

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
...!!!

HA HA HA

HA HA HA

KATA
KATA

Libeli Blaff

ALTES TIER

OLD ONES

A tale even older than the Great Founder, who was granted the land by the gods...

There once lived in Szoslenden a number of colossal beasts with the intelligence to commune with the gods, beasts said to live for hundreds or even thousands of years...



An Old One called "The Great Sage of the Cloud Sea."

The gods entrusted this Old One with the protection of the Great Founder. It served as advisor to the Founder and his eight sons and assigned them trials designed to unlock their potential.

With their intelligence and magic abilities, they inspired deference from the smaller, lesser creatures. These Old Ones were as kings, ruling over the land for millions of years before the advent of the Great Founder.

However, when the gods granted the land to the Great Founder, many of the Old Ones accompanied the gods as they departed Szaalenden for the spirit realm.



The much-feared Old One deemed "The Merciless Thunder Beast."

An ill-tempered Old One that rampaged violently in its refusal to accept the rule of humans, the Thunder Beast devoured countless victims before finally being defeated by the Great Founder himself.

Whether entrusted with special duties by the gods or simply following their own whims, a small number of Old Ones remained in Szaalenden. However, they too would begin to vanish with the passing of the ages. By 1000 A.D. (Anno Domini), it seemed as though not a single Old One remained in the land. However, empire literature for the next several thousand years would continue to describe beings thought to be Old Ones. One of these beings happened to live in the pocket of a certain young slave knight.



Efshleg I's Memoirs

Recorded here is Efshleg's personal history, from his days as a slave knight fighting in the many battles of the empire's civil wars, up through the age of peace brought about by Emperor Rudolph III.



Efshleg I during his slave knight days, along with his mysterious companion, believed to be a juvenile Old One.

When Efshleg I was king of southern Szealion, he wrote his memoirs and described therein a strange little creature he encountered in the forest as a young slave knight. He claimed that he was able to speak with the creature and that the two spent many years together.

Efshleg and the creature would develop a deep friendship, as the latter's surprising wisdom was responsible for helping the former out of many a difficulty.

However, though it had for years remained small enough to fit in a pocket or the palm of one's hand, the strange little creature suddenly grew enormous. It became a beast that towered over Efshleg, with strength to match, inspiring fear in the other slave knights of the company. One day, the enemy made a surprise attack, and in the ensuing battle Efshleg was accidentally injured by the beast, who had underestimated his own strength.

It realized that it had become too powerful to live among humans, so the beast disappeared into the forest. Records of this creature exist only in Efshleg I's personal memoirs, so even two thousand years later, there is no means of confirming whether or not it really existed and whether or not it was in fact a juvenile Old One.

Yoshinori Kuroki

BLUMET

I especially liked the color scheme. He was just really easy to draw.

"This one goes around with a wagon collecting corpses." How fun is that!

Yusuke Kawanishi

RUDOLPH

TAD-001
Takeshi
NERIDA

The scales are "proof of her contract with the dragons." I thought that was an interesting design element.



I was worried that I might have wound up with a character creation contest with no entries, but it all worked out in the end. I want to thank you all—not just the three winners, but everyone who participated—for coming up with so many fun designs. I'm only sorry I couldn't use your characters more in the story.

Etorouji Shiono

Thanks for all your submissions.



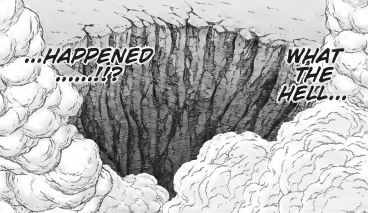
Libelblatt





Sturz (Collapse)
◆I◆











THE
PEOPLE
OF
JEBR
ARE...

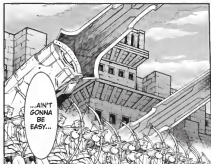
...
RUSHING
US,
WEAPONS
IN HAND
.....!!



TAKE
THE
MAR-
QUIS'S
HEAD!!!

RRRR-
RAAAA-
AAAH!!







...ARE
UNWORTHY
OF RULING
OUR JEHR
...!!

MARQUIS
LEBEL-
LOND...

YOU.....



OBLITERATE THEM!!



WHAT...?

I SHOW THEM MY POWER...
...AND THEY TURN ON ME...!?



MARGUIS
LEBEL-
LOND!!!



.....

DAMN
YOU...



COME
ANY
CLOSER
...

...AND
YOU'LL
GET NO
MERCY!!



THE
CRASH

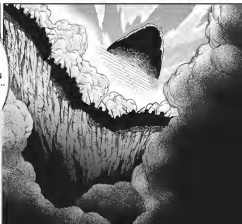










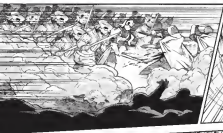




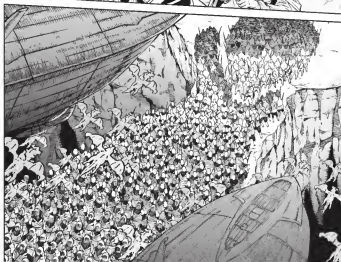
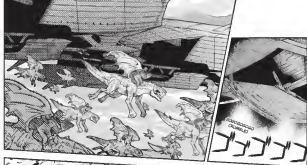








ARRRRN!!!





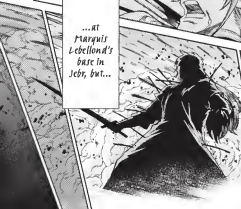
3992
Anno
Donatio



Jedr's
factions
started
rebellling...



...At
Marquis
Lebellond's
base in
Jedr, but...





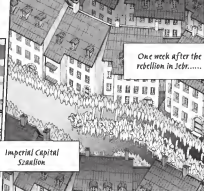
...the
rebel-
lion...

...was
quickly
sup-
pressed.



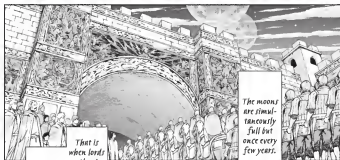
Sturz (Collapse)

◆II◆



One week after the rebellion in Jebr.....

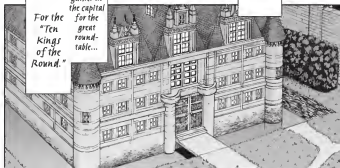
Imperial Capital
Szarlion

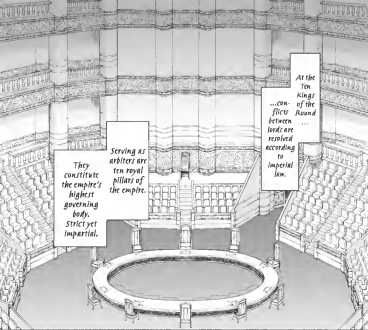


The moons
are simulta-
neously
full but
once every
few years.

That is
when lords
gather in
the capital
for the
great round-
table...

For the
"Ten
Kings
of the
Round."

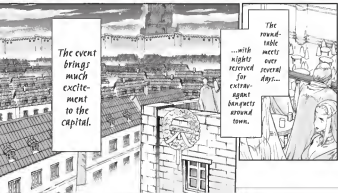




They constitute the empire's highest governing body. Strict yet impartial.

Serving as arbiters are ten royal pillars of the empire.

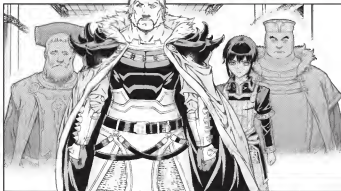
At the Ten Kings of the Round ...
...conflicts between lords are resolved according to imperial law.



The event brings much excitement to the capital.

...with nights reserved for extravagant banquets around town.

The round-table meets over several days...





I HEARD
HE DEFEATED
THE REBEL IN
COMBAT...

BRINGING
A MAN
LIKE THAT
INTO THE
CAPITAL,
WELL...

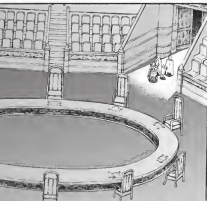
...
TRAITOROUS
LANCE
KFER'S
LEGACY.....

THEY
SAY
HE'S
.....



...MAR-
QUIS
LEBEL-
LOND'S
WILL...

NOW NO
ONE CAN
OPPOSE...





...MOLLAN,
LEMDA...

...AND
JEBR WILL
ALL BE
MINE.

AFTER
TO-NIGHT'S
MEET-
ING...



...AND
YOU.
WHAT
WOULD
YOU
LIKE?



JUST
TELL ME IF
THERE'S ANY
TERRITORY
YOU TWO
FANCY.



COME
NOW,
CHEER UP,
ICHFEIS.



...I FINALLY
RELEASED
YOU FROM
YOUR
SERVITUDE
AS A SLAVE
KNIGHT.

AT YES-
TERDAY'S
MEETING...





*SIR
ICHFEIS.*



ARE YOU
STILL
HOLDING A
GRUDGE?

OVER THAT
ATTACK I
LAUNCHED IN
THE END?



.....



AND I'M
GRATEFUL
FOR THAT,
MARQUIS
LEBEL-
LOND.



...BEFORE
THE REBEL
COULD
COUNTER-
ATTACK.

ALL I
DID WAS
HELP YOU
OUT...



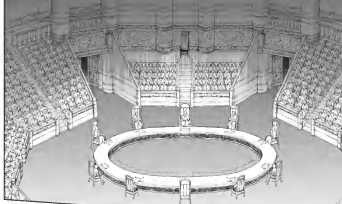
...SO AT
LEAST TRY
FORCING A
SMILE,
SCHFEIS!

...I'LL HAVE
OBTAINED
EVEN MORE
POWER...

BY THE
TIME
TONIGHT'S
COUNCIL
ADJOURNS



...HMPH.



NOW, THEN,
IN RESPONSE
TO MARQUIS
LEBELLOND'S
EXPLOITS.....



DO ANY
HERE
OBJECT
TO THE
PROPOS-
AL?

...IT IS
PROPOSED
THAT HE BE
GRANTED
THESE THREE
TERRITORIES.

Balgrurie

Mongol
Sultan
Kagge

Fettered
South

Lenda

Markgral
s-Rate
Menthor

Fursten
Knohzer

Kingdom
Zighid

Landgral
Sultan





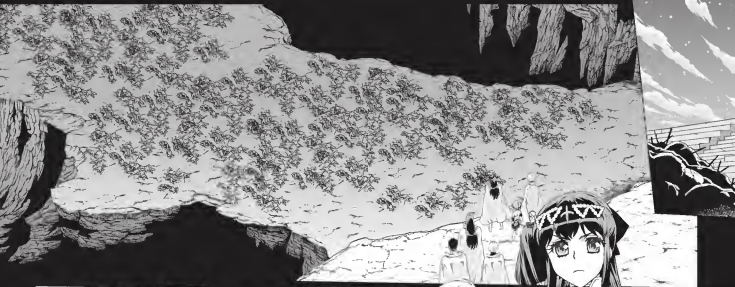


WHO
MIGHT
YOU
BE!?



...EL-
SARIA
!?





WHAT ABOUT
YOU, MISS
ELSARIA...?



...THE
ENTIRE
EMPIRE
WILL MEET
WITH
JERR'S
FATE...



IF I DON'T
PUT A STOP
TO MARGUIS
LEBELLOND'S
TYRANNY, THEN
BEFORE LONG...



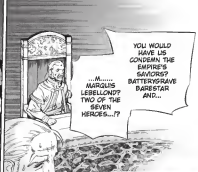
I NEED
THE REST
OF YOU...



...TO
SEARCH
JERR FOR
HIM.









DISCUSS
IT AS YOU
SEE FIT.



THAT'S
FINE.

NEVER MIND
THAT THE
EMPEROR
HAS ALREADY
GIVEN ME
COMPLETE
MILITARY
AUTHORITY.

DON'T
LET THAT
HOLD
YOU
BACK.



THE
MARGUIS'S
ACTIONS...

...ARE
ALREADY
BEYOND
REPROACH.
THERE IS NO
DEBATE.

THANKS
TO MARGUIS
LEBELLOND'S
TIRELESS
EFFORTS TO
PRESERVE
LAW AND
ORDER IN
THE EMPIRE...

...THE
REVOLT IN JEER
INCITED BY
THE REBEL
HAS BEEN
STAMPED
OUT...
...AND
THE
REBEL
HIMSELF
ELIMINATED.



WE'VE
ENTER-
TAINED
YOUR
FOOLISH-
NESS LONG
ENOUGH,
LITTLE
GIRL!

TH-
THAT'S
RIGHT!!



**YOUR
HIGH-
NESS
!!!**



.....



**...BUT NOW
THEY ERRI
QUIVERING
IN FEAR OF
A SINGLE
LORD'S MIGHT!**

**THE TEN
KINGS OF
THE ROUND
SHOULD BE
IMPARTIAL
AND
JUST.....**



**.....THE
MOTION
HAS
PASSED...**



.....

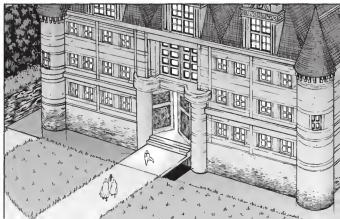


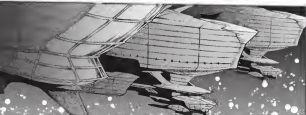
**PLEASE,
SAY
SOME-
THING
.....!**

**YOUR
HIGH-
NESS!**











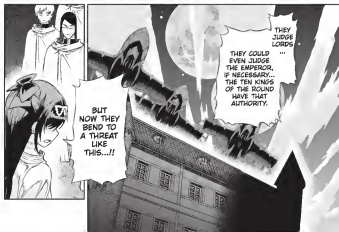
IT'S NOT JUST THE CAPITAL.

...TO KEEP AN EYE ON THEM.

IT SEEMS HE'S SENT FORCES TO EACH OF THE TEN KING'S TERRITORIES...



THE NERVE OF HIM!!



BUT NOW THEY BEND TO A THREAT LIKE THIS...!!

THEY JUDGE LORDS ...

THEY COULD EVEN JUDGE THE EMPEROR, IF NECESSARY... THE TEN KING'S OF THE ROUND HAVE THAT AUTHORITY.



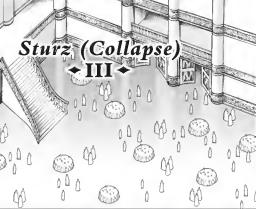


**...CAN NO
LONGER
BE FOUND
HERE!!**

**OUR
RIGH-
TEOUS
PATH...**

Sturz (Collapse)

◆ III ◆





...EVEN
EMPERORS
ARE SLAVES
TO TIME
AND TIDE...



LOOK.

HIS
HIGH-
NESS IS
RETIRING
FOR THE
NIGHT.



I WISH
TO PAY MY
RESPECTS
.....

IS
MARQUIS
LEBEL-
LOND IN
.....?



OF
COURSE.
IF YOU
COULD
JUST...
...WAIT A
MOMENT?



YOU'RE
MORE
POWERFUL
THAN THE
EMPEROR
NOW.
LEBEL-
LOND.



NOT
YET.



KEEP IT
DOWN.

YOU
MUSTN'T
SPEAK SO
BOLDLY,
GÜLENGÜRV.



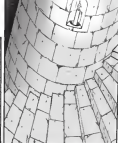
...EM-
PEROR
YET.

I'M
NOT...









WHAT'D
THEY DO
TO END UP
IN JAIL
HERE...?

...THE
"ORDER OF
THE SEVEN
LANCES"
THAT THE LATE
MARQUIS
GLENN WAS
SO PROUD
OF...

SO
THEY'RE
...



NOT IN
THESE
TIMES.....

NO
HELPING
THEM
NOW.

MAR-
QUIS
LEBEL-
LOND...?

...AFTER
THEY
ROSE
UP TO
OPPOSE
MARQUIS
LEBEL-
LOND.

SEEMS
THE TEN
KINGS
OF THE
ROUND
ORDERED
THEM
HERE...



WE CAN'T
ALLOW...

...MARQUIS
LEBELLOND
TO DO
THIS.....!

WE
CAN'T
LET THIS
STAND...



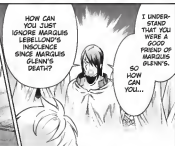


**DRAGON-
GRAVE
ISCHÜDI-
EN!**



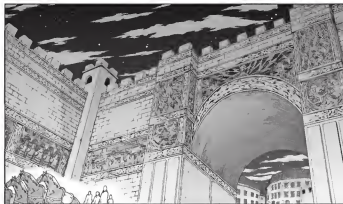
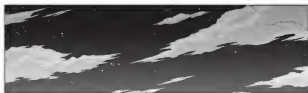


DRAGON-GRAVE!







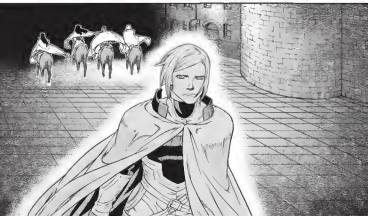














SPEAKING
OF.....



YES.

I HEAR
YOU'VE
BROUGHT
THAT BEER—
THE VESTAL
PRINCESS—
TO THE
CAPITAL..

EH,
GILLEN-
GURV?



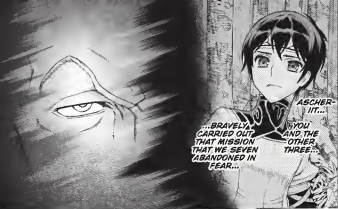
...CON-
CERNING
THE
FUTURE
OF THE
EMPIRE.

THE
FUTURE
OF MY
EMPIRE.



HMPH.

I'D LIKE
HER TO
DO A
READING
...



ASCHER-
IT...

...BRAVELY
CARRIED OUT
THAT MISSION
THAT WE SEVEN
ABANDONED IN
FEAR...

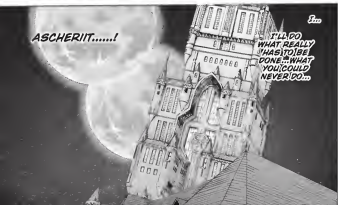
YOU
AND THE
OTHER
THREE...



...THAT ONLY
PLUGGED
THE LEAK.

TEMPORARY
RELIEF FROM
THE COMING
CALAMITY.....

BUT IN
THE END...



ASCHERIT.....!

I...

I'LL DO
WHAT REALLY
HAS TO BE
DONE... WHAT
YOU COULD
NEVER DO...







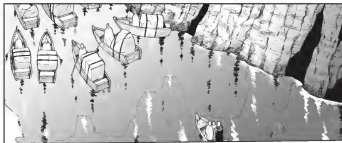




...At the
eastern
edge of
Jabr's
Great
Fissure.

Two
months
after the
Ten
kings
of the
Round
met...

Sturz (Collapse)
◆ IV ◆





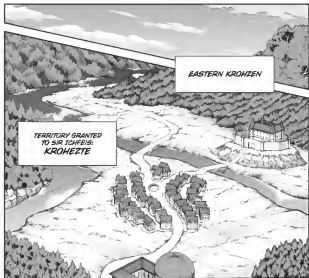


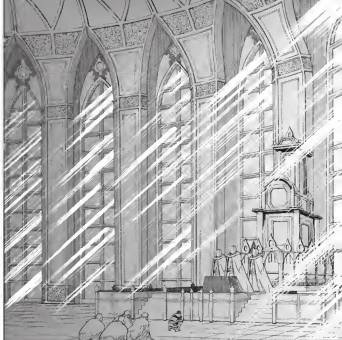




IN MY
BLOOD...

I
CAN
FEEL
IT.







...HEREBY
RECOGNIZE
YOU SIR
ICHFEIS, AS
THE EMPIRE'S
STRONGEST
SWORDS-
MAN.

WE OF THE
IMPERIAL
COURT OF
BLADES...



YES.



ARE YOU
RESOLVED
TO BEAR
THIS CREST
AND
TITLE?

SIR
ICH-
FEIS.



VERY
WELL.



YES.



SIR
ICH-
FEIS.

FOR AS
LONG AS
YOU LIVE,
ARE YOU
RE-
SOLVED...

...TO
EXEMPLIFY
AND
DEFEND
YOUR
POSITION?



IN
ACCORDANCE
WITH THE
LAWS OF OUR
IMPERIAL
COURT OF
SWORDS...

...SIR
ICHFEIS...

...I
HEREBY
DUB YOU
BLATT
MEISTER.





...YES, OF COURSE
I AM.



AREN'T
YOU
HAPPY?

DON'T
LOOK SO
DOWN,
ICHFEIS.



BUT.....

...IF HE
WERE
STILL.....

AND
NOW AT
LONG LAST,
I'M BLATT
MEISTER.

I'VE
MASTERED
THE
TECHNIQUE
I SOUGHT
FOR SO LONG.



THAT
DEMI-HUMAN
BOY WHO
SOMEHOW
USED BLACK
WING...?

WHO
DO YOU
MEAN?



...WE
COULD
HAVE
INSPIRED
EACH
OTHER.
HE
COULD
HAVE
HELPED
ME
BECOME
STRON-
GER...

IF
MARQUIS
LEBEL-
LOND
HADN'T
KILLED
HIM...



SO IT'S
ENTIRELY
POSSIBLE THAT
ONE OF HIS
PUPILS BEGAN
TEACHING IN
THE BORDER-
LANDS.....

ASCHERIT
TRAINED A
GOOD NUMBER
HIMSELF, IN
FACT.

THE HALL OF
SWORDS HAS
PROVIDED THE
EMPIRE WITH
COUNTLESS
SWORDSMEN
OVER THE
YEARS.



I WISH
I COULD
HAVE
MET THIS
BOY.



**BLATT
MEISTER
ICHFEIS.**

GO ON
NOW.

WELL
...
MAG-
TER...

THIS
WAY,
SIR.

LORD
ICH-
FEIS.
WE'RE ALL
PREPARED
FOR YOUR
PARADE.



**LORD
ICH-
FEIS!!**



I STILL SAY
MARQUIS
LEBELLOND
FORCED
THEM TO
GIVE HIM
THE TITLE.

HMPH.

THAT LAD'S
THE BLATT
MEISTER?

SO ON,
THEN,
TRY
HIM.

IS HE
REALLY
THAT
STRONG?

N-NO
THANK
YOU...

**LONG
LIVE
THE
NEW
BLATT
MEIS-
TER!!**

**BLATT
MEIS-
TER!!**





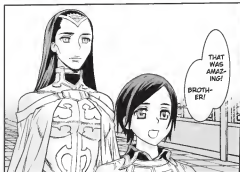




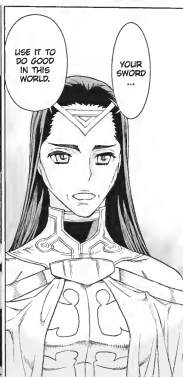


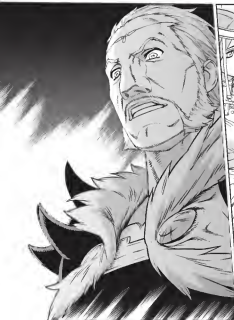
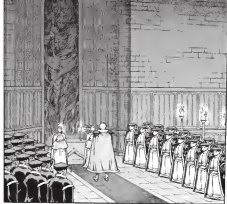






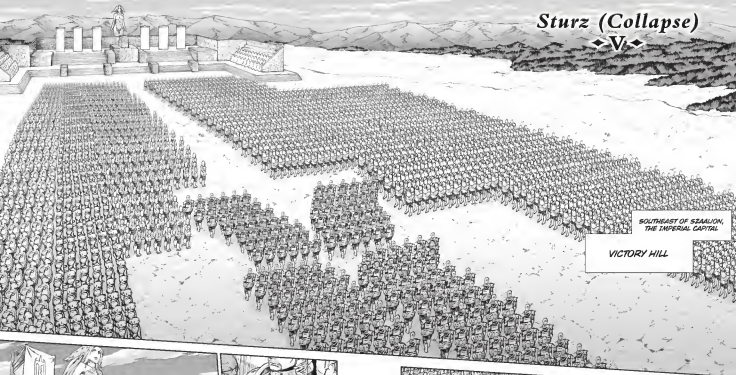






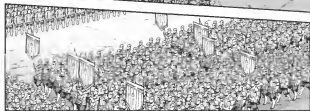
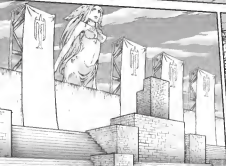
Sturz (Collapse)

◆ V ◆



SOUTHEAST OF SZALION,
THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL

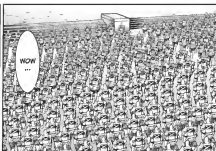
VICTORY HILL





WHO
KNEW THE
IMPERIAL
ARMY
WAS THIS
BIG.....?

THIS IS MY
FIRST TIME
AT A TROOP
ASSEMBLY
LIKE
THIS.....



WOW
...



IT'S THE
GODDESS
OF
PEACE!

HIS
HIGHNESS
HAD IT
BUILT TO
COMMEMORATE
THE END OF
THE GREAT
WAR...



KNOW
WHAT
THAT
IS?



HE'LL BE
STANDING UP
THERE SOON
ENOUGH!

HIS
HIGHNESS
ISN'T
COMING
TODAY.



THAT
HIGH-
EST
LEVEL
...

...IS
RESERVED
JUST
FOR THE
EMPEROR
HIMSELF!

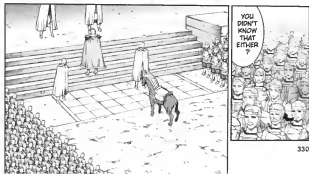
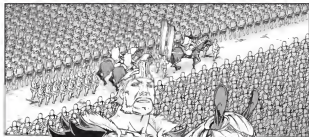


YEAH,
WE
KNOW.

CALM
DOWN,
WOULD
YOU?
THIS
ISN'T
THE
TIME...

LOOK!
SEE THAT
PLAT-
FORM??









...MY
ARMY.

THIS
IS...



THIS WAY,
COMMANDER



!!

MAR-
QUIS
LEBEL-
LOND,
THAT'S
...!!



!



WE WILL
NOW...

...HEAR
SOME
REMARKS
FROM
COM-
MANDER
IN CHIEF
LEBEL-
LOND!!



COM-
MANDER
IN CHIEF
OF THE
IMPERIAL
ARMY!

I AM
LEBEL-
LOND.



...THERE'S
SOME-
THING YOU
ALL MUST
KNOW.

TO
BEGIN
WITH...

SO LET'S
DISPENSE
WITH FOR-
MALITIES.

MANY OF
YOU HAVE
TRAVELED
FAR TO
BE HERE
TODAY.







OVER THE YEARS, THEY'VE DEVoured SCORES OF CHILDREN FROM NEIGHBORING VILLAGES.

...THEY WENT INTO HIDING IN THE BISSBELTEN MOUNTAINS.

THESE LOT... AFTER THE WAR ENDED...

I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN BISSBELTEN.....!

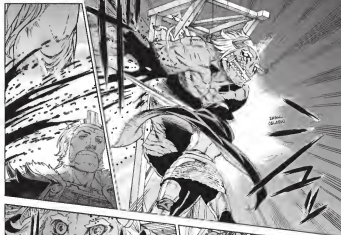
I...



I SUPPOSE YOU STRANGLED THEM WITH THOSE VERY ARMS?

THEY KIDNAPPED THOSE POOR, INNOCENT CHILDREN ...

...AND GNAWED ON THEIR BONES.







...IN THE
EMPIRE!

THERE
IS NO
PEACE...



...I
HEREBY
DECLARE
WAR ON
WISCH-
TECH!

AS
COM-
MANDER
IN CHIEF
OF THE
IMPERIAL
ARMY...



!!!



NOW,
ONCE
MORE...

...IT'S
TIME TO
PICK
UP OUR
SWORDS!!

THE
BATTLE
NEVER
REALLY
ENDED!!

FOR TWENTY
YEARS, WE'VE
BEEN PUTTING
OFF THE FIGHT
NEEDED TO
ACHIEVE
TRUE PEACE.



IF WE
DON'T
GO TO
WAR...

...TO
TAKE
CARE
OF THIS
THREAT

THE
COM-
MAND-
ER'S
RIGHT!!



...LYING
SO
CLOSE TO
HOME...?

SO
THOSE
THINGS
WERE...



...IS NO
SMALL
THING.

...GOIN' TO
WAR WITH
THEM...



...KID!

SHUT
YER
YAP...



THIS
HERE MAGIC
CREST TATTOO
IS HOLDIN' IT
BACK, BUT...

...THEY
GOT SOME
MYSTERIOUS
POISON INTO
ME BACK
IN THE WAR
THAT'S STILL
EATIN' AWAY
AT MY BODY.

BUT...

B...



...JUST
HOW DAMN
FOOLISH
THIS IS...!!

MARQUIS
LEBELLOND
WAS A PART
OF THAT WAR
TOO. SO HE
SHOULD
KNOW...



...BUT MERELY
TRYING TO
FORGET THE
ENEMY'S
THERE ISN'T
ENOUGH!

ESPE-
CIALLY
WHEN THE
ENEMY'S
BEEN
HIDING
AMONG
US!!

WE MAY
HAVE
PUSHED
THE
HORRORS
BACK
BEYOND
THE
SEAL...



**TO FREE
THE
EMPIRE
FROM
THE FEAR
THAT
GRIPS
IT...**

**...WE
HAVE A
DUTY**

.....

**...TO
PURGE
THE
LAND OF
SHAD-
OWS!!!**

RAAAAH!







MAR-
QUIS
LEBEL-
LONG!!!



MAR-
QUIS
LEBEL-
LONG!

SUCH
FOOLISH-
NESS!
WHY...!?



FOR WE
HAVE THE
EMPIRE'S
STRONGEST
SWORDS-
MAN ON
OUR SIDE!!

BUT DO
NOT
WORRY
!!

THE
ENEMY
IS STRONG!
THIS
FIGHT
WILL
NOT BE
EASY!



BLATT
MEIS-
TER
ICH-
FEIS!

COME!









...AND NOW
YOU MEAN
TO INVADE
WISCHTECH...?

YOU'VE
FINALLY
GOT THE
IMPERIAL
ARMY IN HAND...



ISN'T IT
OBVIOUS?

HMMPH



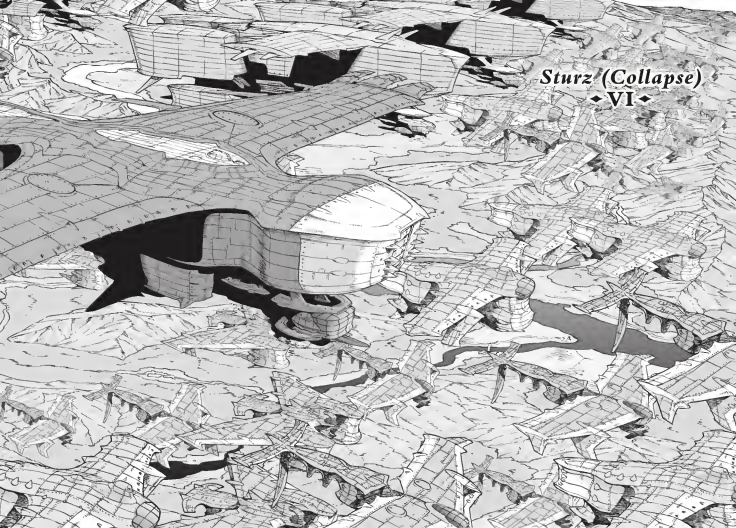
WHAT
ARE YOU
THINK-
ING,
LEBEL-
LOND
...?

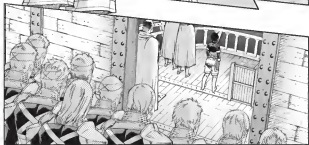
ER...

...
"COM-
MAND-
ER IN
CHIEF"?

Sturz (Collapse)

◆ VI ◆







H...

HEY,
YOU!

**SIR
BLATT
MEIS-
TER!!!**



BUT
THEN I
HEARD...

...ABOUT
HOW YOU,
SIR BLATT
MEISTER,
RAISED
YOURSELF UP
WITH NOTHING
BUT YOUR
OWN SKILL!!

WE'RE
ALL
LOW-
BORN,
OUR-
SELVES.

LIFE
BACK
HOME
WAS
ROUGH.

GET
OUTTA
HERE!

GET!

I...I
JUST
WANNA
TELL
YOU...

...HOW
THRILLED
WE ALL
ARE!!



YOU
GIVE US
HOPE!

SIR
BLATT
MEIS-
TER, YOU...

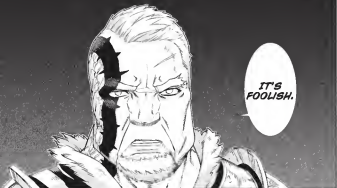
THRILLED
TO HAVE
THE BLATT
MEISTER
COMING WITH
OUR VERY
OWN UNIT!!











**IF ORDERED,
I FIGHT.**

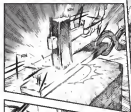


AM
I...

AM I
WALKING
THE RIGH-
TEOUS
PATH...?

MOTHER

.....





I APPRECIATE YOU LETTING ME USE YOUR FORGE.

YEAH.



ALL THAT WORK TO MAKE A SWORD...

...AND YOU JUST SCRAP IT IN THE END?



IF THERE'RE ANY OTHERS YOU NEED, JUST LET ME KNOW.

AS THANKS... I'VE TRIED MAKING SOME FARMING TOOLS.



MY SENSE FOR IT IS GONE...

...NOT YET.



SO SKILLED, IN SPITE OF YOUR AGE.



NOT YET...

I HAVEN'T SURPASSED HIM.





FREE CITY
JULLAS-ABLAS

LORD'S
MANOR

...
PREVENTING
THIS WAR
WILL SOON
BE IMPOS-
SIBLE!!



...I
INTEND TO
COOPERATE
AS MUCH AS
I CAN...

IF WE
DON'T COME
TOGETHER
TO OPPOSE
MARQUIS
LEBEL-
LOND...!

...BUT
OPENLY
DEFYING
MARQUIS
LEBEL-LOND
AT THIS
POINT...

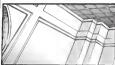


MY...
MY LADY,
PLEASE
CALM
DOWN...

PATHETIC
!!

THE
EMPIRE
WON'T BE
SAVED BY
COWARDS
LIKE YOU!!







PRINCIPALITY OF
SCHALLIANDII

WE CAN'T
AFFORD TO
DELAY.....

MARGUIS
LEBELLOND'S
TYRANNY
MUST BE
STOPPED...!



...ELECTOR
ARCHZALT!





...GRIEVES
ME TO
NO END.

TO EVEN
THINK OF
STAINING
HIS LEGACY
LIKE THIS...



ELECTOR
ARCHZALT
...

...AND
INTENDS TO
LEAD THE
EMPIRE INTO
CHAOS. THIS
IS THE ONLY
MEANS...

...BY
WHICH WE
CAN STOP
HIM.....

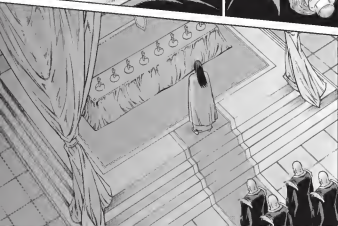


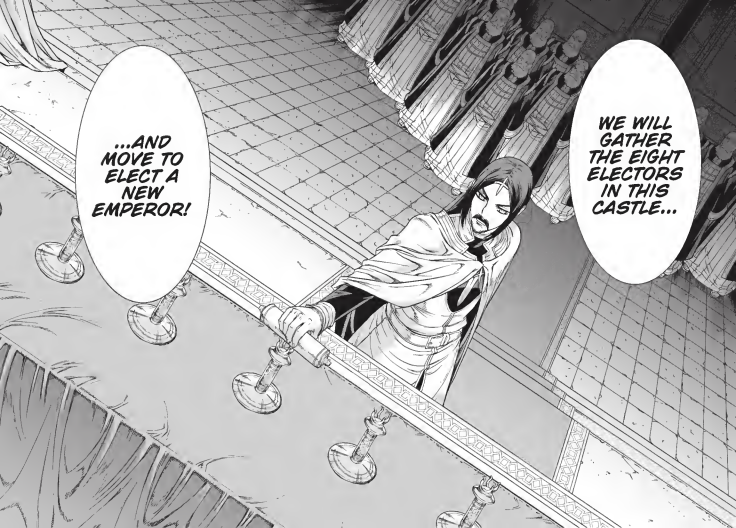
YET...

MARGUIS
LEBELLOND
HAS
STOLEN THE
EMPEROR'S
AUTHORITY
...

HE'S
LED AN
IMPRESSIVE
LIFE, AND
I'M PROUD
TO CALL HIM
FRIEND...

...I
LOVE AND
RESPECT
HIS HIGH-
NESS.





**...AND
MOVE TO
ELECT A
NEW
EMPEROR!**

**WE WILL
GATHER
THE EIGHT
ELECTORS
IN THIS
CASTLE...**



THOSE DAMN
ELECTORS
HAVE BEGUN
STIRRING.



WAVE!



JUST
AS YOU
PREDICTED,
FATHER.

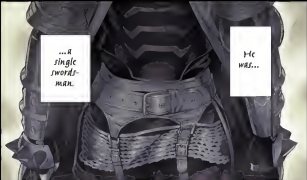


TAKE
CARE
OF
IT...



YES.
FA-
THER.

GUELLO.



...A
single
swords-
man.

He
was...



...was
feared and
hated by
some.

That
swords-
man...



...pinned their
hopes on him...
respected him...
He was called...

While
others...

Die Träume (The Dream)

...the
Hero-
Killing
Rebel.





Offering
him...

...is Lebellond's
own son, Guclld.
Put in charge
of a maschinen-
drache fleet, he
makes for the
elector's castle.

Elector
Archzalt
intends to elect
a new emperor
and put a stop
to Marquis
Lebellond's
ambitions.



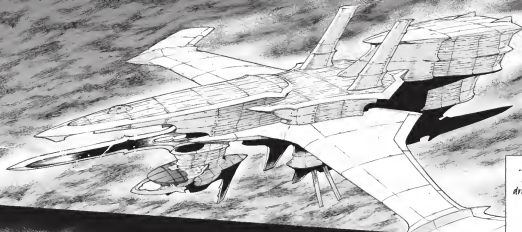
...Guclld
wastes no
time in
assaulting
the castle.

Convinced of
his martial
supremacy...

However

...

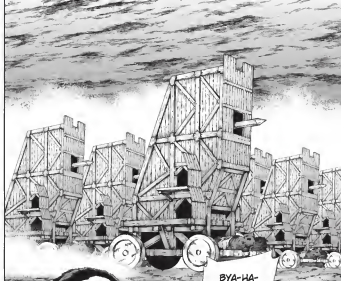




...the mighty maschinen-drache flagship, newly renovated, evening the odds.

...Elector Archzalt's daughter, Elsarla, brings to battle...





I'VE GOT
GOOSE
BLIMPS...

"SEIGE MASTER"
BETZEGARM

BEEN A
WHILE
SINCE
I'VE
TASTED
BATTLE!!!

BYA-HA-
HA-HA-
HA-HA-
HA-HA-
HA-HA-
HA-HA!!!





**HURRY UP
WITH THE
BATTERING
RAMS!!
THIS
CASTLE'S
GOING
DOWN!!!**



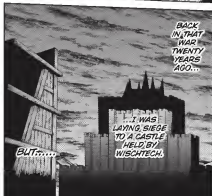
**I KNOW IT'S
ON MARGUIN'S
LEBELLOND'S
ORDERS, BUT
ATTACKING THE
ELECTORS...**

**YOU
SURE
ABOUT
THIS,
BOSS?**



**I THINK MY
COMEBACK
SIEGE WOULD
BE AGAINST
THE ELECTOR'S
STRONG-
HOLD.....**

**I'VE GOT
GOOSE
BUMPS...!**



**BACK
IN THAT
WAR
TWENTY
YEARS
AGO...**

**...I WAS
LAYING SIEGE
TO A CASTLE
HELD BY
WISCHTECH.**

BUT.....



**I OWE A
DEBT...
...TO
LEBEL-
LOND.**

**TO
THOSE
GREAT
LANCE
WARRIORS
...**



BESIEGED
UPON OUR
OWN SIEGE
TOWER.....

...THE TABLES
TURNED,
AND WE WERE
SURROUNDED
BY THE ENEMY.



...THOSE
MIGHTY
WARRIORS
CAME AND
HELPED US.

BUT
THEN...



AND
NOW HE'S
ASKING
ME...

...TO LAY
SIEGE TO
A CASTLE
FOR HIM!

Y'MIGHT
SAY THAT
LEBELLOND
SAVED MY
LIFE.

BOY, DID
I HAVE
GOOSE
BUMPS
BACK
THEN...!



NOT "HIS
HIGHNESS,"
BOSS.

IT'S
MARQUIS
LEBELLOND.
JUST
MARQUIS...

I DON'T
GET HUNG
UP ON
DETAILS!

EH?



LONG LIVE
HIS
HIGH-
NESS,
LEBEL-
LOND!!!

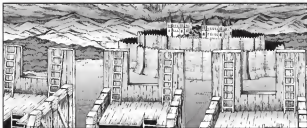
LONG
MAY
HE
LIVE
!!!

BYA-
HA-HA-
HA-HA-
HA-HA!!!



HE'LL BE
EMPEROR
BEFORE
LONG.

EITHER
WAY.





...AND DIE
WITHOUT
SHAME.

...MUST LIVE
WITHOUT
SHAME...

SOME MAY
DISAGREE,
BUT I BELIEVE
THAT EVERY
RAHNCLAVE...



I TAKE
PRIDE IN
THAT...

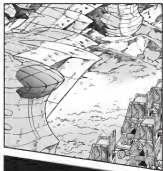
I HELD
ON TO
THAT
DREAM

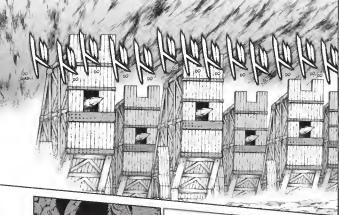
...COULD
BE ONE OF
PEACE.

...I HAD TO
IMAGINE THAT
PERHAPS MY
CHILDREN'S
ERA...

FROM
THE DAY
THAT WAR
ENDED...

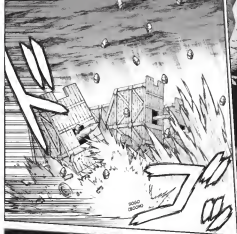






**I'VE
GOT
GOOSE
BUMPS
!!!**



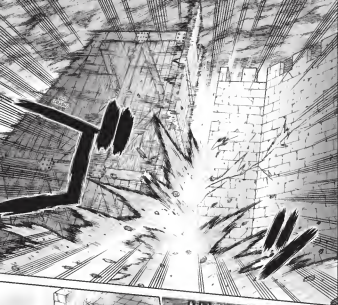


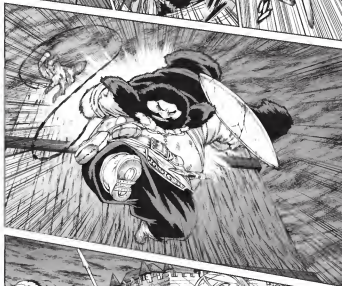
STAND
STRONG
!!!

AD-
VANCE
!!!!

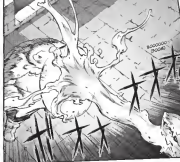
GUWA-
AAAA-
AAAA-
AAH!!!













**FOLLOW
ME,
BOYS!!!!**



**BRING
DOWN THE
CASTLE!!**

**RAAAH
!!!**



**KEEP UP
WITH THE
BOSS!!!**







THAT'S
ENOUGH
MISCHIEF.

WHAT
NAUGHTY
CHILDREN

XXXXXXXXXXXX



!

ANOTHER
ONE.....?!

EEK!!

BOSS.....

GYAAA-
AAAAA-
AAH!!!



REIN-
FORCE-
MENTS!?!?

TH-THE
ELECTOR
HAS A DEMON
FOR AN
ALLY.....?!

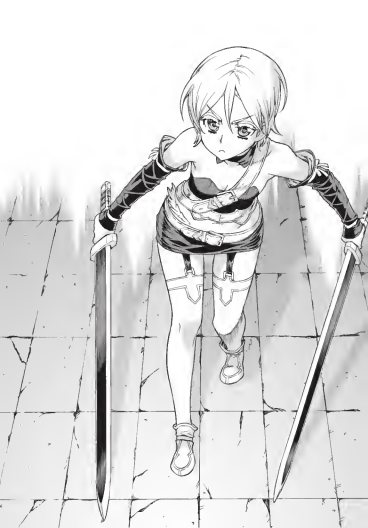


CHARGE!!

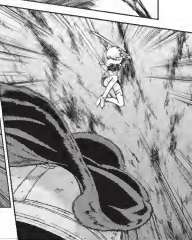
KILL
HIM
DEAD!!!

HE
AIN'T SO
SCARY!!











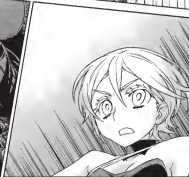






HA-HA-
HA-HA-
HA-HA-
HA-HA!
SEE THIS,
GIRLIE!?

THIS IS
HOW A
SIEGE
MASTER
FIGHTS!
AH-HA-HA-
HA-HA-
HA-HA!!!!













Libeli Blaff

TWO WARRIORS



Hyland Krehgl

Compiled a record of military tactics used throughout the empire's history and put them into practice on the battlefield during periods of unrest in the empire.

There were once two great warriors in the empire. One was Hyland Krehgl, a scholar of military arts throughout the ages, born to a renowned military family. The other was Samdalanga, a genius in the art of siege warfare born in the borderlands.

Around 2800 A.D. (Anno Donatio), civil war in the empire led the king of Szaslent to order Hyland to action. With Samdalanga serving him, Hyland set out to suppress the longstanding lords of provinces that had rebelled against the empire.

SIEGE
MERCENARIES

With the chaos coming to an end, Hyland decided to make a grab for the throne, thinking himself singlehandedly responsible for preserving the empire's stability. He was refused and would go on to oppose the newly formed imperial order. In the end, Hyland declared himself emperor anyway and turned his forces on the capital. The capital found itself terrorized by the man responsible for reuniting the empire in the first place. Hyland's battle record was impeccable, but he was defeated at last by a force led by the king of Szaslent himself.

Hyland was forced to turn tail and retreat to the so-called "unbreachable" fort city, Camon Tsud Ngamona. The king assaulted the fort city, having since allied with Hyland's old friend, Samdalanga.



Samdalanga

A warrior born in the Kacheralands region of the borderlands, his talent was recognized by the king of Szaslent, and during his career as a castle siege expert, he would develop a number of new battle strategies.

TWO YOUNG MEN

Increasingly resentful of Hyland's troops' brutality, the pair plotted to assassinate the leader. One night, they sneaked into his chambers. However, it was there they met a particularly beautiful young woman. She raised her sword to them, and the two friends—unwilling to fight back—fled.

The girl was Hyland's daughter, Rindolge Keshgi.

Hyland was besieged over the next five years. During this time, two particular young men grew up in the city Gamon Tsad Ngamasa. They were Prakella and Twindily. The former was the son of an upper-class family of the city, while the latter came from a family of merchants who found themselves unable to leave the city under siege. The two met in the destitute, resource-starved city and became friends, but they would later walk separate paths.



Rindolge Keshgi
A master tactician whose father, Hyland, taught her everything he knew.

Gamon Tsad Ngamasa eventually fell to Samdalanga's tactics, but Hyland escaped the city with a number of his subordinates. Rindolge was left behind and consequently captured, but her father's comrade-in-arms, Samdalanga, treated her well. Recognizing Rindolge's aptitude for tactics (passed down by her father), Samdalanga arranged for the girl to be educated at the imperial military academy.

Thanks to Samdalsoga's efforts, Gamon Tsud Ngamosa was liberated. Prakelfa and Twindily were deeply impressed by their savior and came to revere him. They would also go on to attend the imperial military academy. Having witnessed the "unbreakable" Gamon Tsud Ngamosa broken by Samdalsoga, Prakelfa became a castle architect who dreamed of building castles that would surpass even the one he grew up in. Twindily received his education from Samdalsoga himself, learning everything there was to know about castle siege tactics.

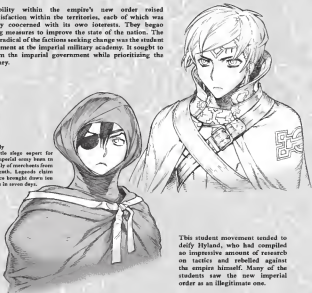
Instability within the empire's new order raised dissatisfaction within the territories, each of which was largely concerned with its own interests. They began taking measures to improve the state of the nation. The most radical of the factions seeking change was the student movement at the imperial military academy. It sought to reform the imperial government while prioritizing the military.

Prakelfa

A staff officer in the rebel army responsible for advancing both castle architecture and siege techniques.

Twindily

A castle siege expert for the imperial army born to a family of merchants from the south. Legends claim he once brought down ten castles in seven days.



This student movement tended to defy Hyland, who had compiled so impressive amount of research on tactics and rebelled against the empire himself. Many of the students saw the new imperial order as an illegitimate one.

Influenced by his peers at the academy, Prakelfa too came around to this line of thinking. At the center of this student faction was the girl he once met, Rindolga Krehgl. Already in love with Rindolga, Prakelfa's heart was stirred by her faction's ideals, which advocated total revolution. Several years later, dissatisfaction with the new imperial order exploded when multiple minor lords openly rebelled and were joined by a faction within the imperial army itself. The empire was split in two, and all-out war began. Leading the charge was Rindolga, with Prakelfa at her side.

Acting as Rindolga's envoy, Praskelfa traveled to meet with the rebelling lords, taking the opportunity to advise them on castle reinforcement and defense tactics. Attempting to subdue the lords, the imperial army continued to suffer setbacks thanks to the lords' fortified defenses. Rindolga's call to action was also responsible for many young imperial soldiers' decision to defect. Samdalanga—now a general in the imperial army—dispatched his adopted son, Twindily—now a castle siege tactician—to the front lines.

In order to bring down the castles fortified by Praskelfa, Twindily traveled throughout the empire to meet with military factions that opposed the rebelling lords. He taught them siege techniques and gave them designs for special siege weapons and towers that he had personally developed. Thanks to Twindily's leadership and the siege efforts he sparked, the rebelling lords were pinned down, unable to counterattack. The large-scale rebellion was utterly suppressed in a surprisingly short amount of time. The techniques used by the factions of the time would be passed down, giving rise to "siege masters." These mercenaries would play roles in a number of conflicts throughout the ages.

Rindolga and Praskelfa, however, endured another seven years of attacks by the imperial army, besieged within their final defense—Hyland Castle. The battle finally ended when the two were killed at the hands of a massive siege force led by Samdalanga I, who had since become emperor.

In the aftermath, Rindolga and Praskelfa's daughter, Hylege, was discovered in the ruins of the fort. She inherited her father's talent for castle defense and was well acquainted with the use of flying dragon squads and selective breeding techniques for dragons. She would go on to make a name for herself as a general in the imperial army, specializing in dragon units.



Hylege Kishgi

Rindolga and Praskelfa's daughter, born in the besieged Hyland Castle. She was adopted by Twindily and became a member of the imperial army. Hylege was responsible for revolutionizing the army's flying dragon units.

ÜBEL BLATT ⑤

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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